



PRESS RELEASE

Jess a Deal is 'Amazing'; Bell Wins Three



Nine-year-old Jess a Deal reaches out for the finish in the Battle of the Breeds.

AJAX DOWNS, MAY 29, 2025 - The queen of the **BATTLE OF THE BREEDS** races, **JESS A DEAL**, has won another race against her Thoroughbred counterparts. The stocky 9-year-old mare, owned by Marie Broadstock and Picov Cattle Company, held off Bruno Schickedanz's Determined Love to win the first Battle of the Breeds race of 2025 on May 28.

The Battle of the Breeds races are the only Ajax Downs event around a turn and they match Quarter Horses against Thoroughbreds.

With Ramiro Castillo on board, Jess a Deal, trained by Bob Broadstock, broke best from the gate and was briefly challenged by her stablemate Ice Cream Cartel to the turn. Determined Love and jockey Ismael Mosqueira were squeezed back at the start and moved three wide around the turn but came up two lengths short of the winner.

Schickedanz is one of North America's leading Thoroughbred owners and Determined Love was his first starter at Ajax Downs.

The time was 42.178, for a 76 speed index.

This was the **fourth Battle of the Breeds win for Jess a Deal**, who won three last year. Since the beginning of 2024, **the Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds are tied 4 - 4 for victories in the race.**

"When she leaves the gate, she just relaxes," said Castillo. "I tried to go slow the first 600 yards, and I was scared of Bruno's horse. She's just amazing."

Five-time leading jockey **BRIAN BELL** rang in a triple on Wednesday to get **within four victories of 800 Quarter Horse wins** in Canada. Bell won two for trainer Joe Tavares - Rr Illbeurhucklebery and Ivy League Sugarbaby - and scored on Amber Archibald's Gin Express.

The featured race of the day was won by Fort Erie-based **BODHI**, who doubles as a track pony at the border oval. Owned and trained by Nick Mileni, Jr, Bodhi works with Thoroughbreds in morning training and races occasionally at Ajax with Helen Vanek riding. Making his first start since last year, Bodhi was an easy winner in the 300-yard dash over stakes winner Hawkin the Straw.

Racing continues at Ajax Downs **on Wednesday June 4 with the Trials for the Unclassified Stakes. First race post time is 1:45 p.m.**

Bet on the Ajax Downs races at the track or on www.HPIBet.com.

Parking and admission are always free at Ajax Downs and you can watch the racing up close from the many picnic tables trackside.

New from Ajax Downs is the opportunity to **reserve tables on the apron or on Level one** for \$25.00

The popular VIP room overlooking the track can be reserved on racing days by contacting the track at www.ajaxdowns.com or (905) 686-8001.

To find out more about joining the popular **First Line Racing Syndicate** and own a share in a Quarter Horse, call the QROOI at (905) 426-7050.

2025 RACE SCHEDULE

LIVE QUARTER HORSE RACING

RACING & EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE ~FAMILY~

A J A X D O W N S

MAY							JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

JULY							AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	31	1	2	3	4	5	6

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

RACE DAYS

- WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 14, 21, 28
First Race 1:45 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 11, 25
First Race 1:45 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY JULY 9, 16, 30
First Race 1:45 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6, 13, 20
First Race 1:45 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 17, 24
First Race 12:55 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1, 8, 22
First Race 12:55 P.M.

Special Events!

- FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY JUNE 15
First Race 12:55 P.M.
- TWILIGHT RACE NIGHT WEDNESDAY JULY 2
First Race 4:15 P.M.
- CRAFT BEER DAY SUNDAY JULY 20
First Race 12:55 P.M.
- FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY AUGUST 24
First Race 12:55 P.M.
- PUMPKIN DAY MONDAY OCTOBER 13
First Race 12:55 P.M.

ALL SUNDAYS & HOLIDAY MONDAYS FIRST RACE 12:55 P.M.

50 ALEXANDER'S CROSSING - AJAX, ONTARIO 905 686-8001
MORE INFO VISIT AJAXDOWNS.COM